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Attachment to - Z-15790/83-

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NPIC/PEG (11/83)

**RATEL INFANTRY FIGHTING VEHICLES**  
**IRENE MISSILE RESEARCH AND ASSEMBLY/PRODUCTION FACILITY**  
**KENTRON, SOUTH AFRICA**

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1. **SIGNIFICANCE:** THE PRESENCE OF TWO RATEL INFANTRY FIGHTING VEHICLES (INF) AT THIS FACILITY MAY INDICATE SOUTH AFRICAN INTENT TO MODIFY THEM FOR A SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE ROLE. (SWN)
2. **REMARKS:** TWO RATEL INFANTRY FIGHTING VEHICLES (IFV) ARE IN A FENCE-SECURED VEHICLE PARK IN THE NORTHERN SECTION OF THIS FACILITY. THE TWO RATEL ARE CANVAS COVERED. BOTH APPEAR TO HAVE TURRETS STILL MOUNTED, BUT THE GUN TUBES MAY HAVE BEEN REMOVED. (SWN)

IRENE RAND A/PDN FAC KENTRON IS REPORTED TO BE THE FINAL ASSEMBLY AND MODIFICATIONS FACILITY FOR THE CACTUS SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE (SAM) AND THE SKORPION SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILE SYSTEMS. THE PRESENCE OF THE TWO RATEL IFV MAY INDICATE THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS ARE PREPARING TO UTILIZE THE RATEL IFV AS A TRANSPORTER-ERECTOR-LAUNCHER (TEL) FOR THE CACTUS SAM SYSTEM. THE RATEL IFV IS A SIX-WHEELED ARMORED VEHICLE WHICH IS MORE MANEUVERABLE THAN THE STANDARD FOUR-WHEELED CACTUS TEL. THE CACTUS SAM SYSTEM IS DEPLOYED IN LIMITED NUMBERS WITH SOUTH AFRICAN GROUND FORCES. THE SYSTEM WAS DEVELOPED WITH FRENCH ASSISTANCE, BUT IT HAS BEEN PRODUCED ONLY IN VERY LIMITED NUMBERS BY SOUTH AFRICA. (SWN)

IRENE RAND A/PDN FAC KENTRON IS APPROXIMATELY 2 NM SOUTHWEST OF PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA. (SWN)

3.  COORDINATES 25-53-10S 028-11-58E

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Intelligence Sources  
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